



Clients of AID's Public Interest Law Group express their concerns directly to Phnom Penh governor H.E. Kep Chuktema.

BACKGROUND

USAID has provided over \$22 million since 2001 to support democracy and governance programs in Cambodia. The intent is to promote transparency, encourage "checks and balances," strengthen accountability and ensure that an ever-wider range of voices can participate in the continuing discussions about Cambodia's political and economic future.

PARTNERS

International Republic Institute (IRI) – Ongoing IRI programs aim to improve governance at the Commune Council level; encourage political competition; promote dialogue through Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR); and broaden youth participation in Cambodian political life through the Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC).

National Democratic Institute (NDI) – Ongoing NDI programs address a range of concerns, including support for women's leadership and youth leadership caucuses; strengthened organizational capacity and roles of women and youth within major political parties; expanded media access for political parties as well as civil society; and greater constituency dialogue among members of parliament and the voters in their home provinces.

Also, NDI supports Parliament Watch, which monitors the conduct of parliament and seeks to make it more effective.

Asia Foundation (TAF) – TAF works to promote good local governance, support provincial media and establish and maintain 22 Community Information Centers (CIC) across Cambodia.

RESULTS TO DATE

- TAF established 22 Community Information Centers (CIC), providing access to information on elections, human rights, decentralization, health, community development and other issues.
- IRI supported 88 public forums across Cambodia run by Cambodia Center for Human Rights (CCHR) attended by over 40,000 people. CCHR has held 14 focal point workshops with its 1,526 volunteers.
- CCHR's Voice of Democracy radio program broadcast on Beehive radio, reaches approximately 30-40% of the population.
- IRI conducted 89 live roundtable discussions on a variety of topics.
- IRI supported the Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC) in conducting over 400 trainings on democracy across Cambodia to over 20,000 high school students. These trained youth have written a number of petitions asking authorities and MPs to solve issues of concern to youth.
- NDI helped organize the first multi-party candidate debates across Cambodia in 2003. The series of debates attracted a live audience of 25,000. Twelve out of the 22 debates were broadcast on television and radio. NDI conducted 26 constituencies dialogues between MPs and Constituents held in Siem Reap, Kampong Cham and Prey Veng, attended by 8,736 people including 3,931 women.
- NDI and IRI have supported all major political parties in promoting internal reforms and fostering democracy.